



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

February 2, 2010

**Los Angeles County
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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D. 
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRESS IN OBTAINING
REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SERVICES MEDICAL HUB FORENSIC EVALUATIONS**

On September 1, 2009, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in conjunction with the Departments of Health Services (DHS), Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Public Social Services (DPSS), to report back in 30 days, and quarterly thereafter, on our progress on the following items:

1) Working with the Medi-Cal Managed Care health plans to establish contracts for reimbursement for Medical Hub forensic examinations for pre-detained and non-detained children involved in the child welfare system; 2) working with the California Departments of Health and Social Services on carving out reimbursement to the County for Medical Hub forensic medical examinations at the federal Medi-Cal Share of Cost level, similar to the State's agreements with school-based clinics; and 3) evaluating the feasibility of systematically accessing alternative State emergency/temporary Medi-Cal eligibility programs, such as the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway Program, for children not already enrolled in Medi-Cal.

The CEO provided the initial report to your Board on September 29, 2009. This serves as the first quarterly report.

Reimbursement from Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans

There are two Medi-Cal Managed Care plans in Los Angeles County: the local initiative, L.A. Care, and the commercial plan, operated by HealthNet. DHS staff have been working with L.A. Care staff to develop an agreement to obtain reimbursement for DHS Medical Hub forensic examinations provided to L.A. Care members. A draft agreement is being reviewed by DHS and L.A. Care. Current discussions are focused on developing a reimbursement model. Once the reimbursement model has been finalized, DHS will engage in similar discussions with HealthNet representatives.

Additionally, DHS is working with CEO, County Counsel, and DCFS on proposed legislation for County sponsorship that includes 1) carving out forensic evaluations from Medi-Cal and Healthy Families managed care plans and 2) mandating California health plans to authorize and pay for forensic evaluations provided to their members.

Alternate State Emergency/Temporary Medi-Cal Eligibility Programs

Most of the children seen at Medical Hubs have health coverage. Children with third-party coverage are not eligible for temporary/emergency Medi-Cal. In addition, Medical Hub services are provided in outpatient clinic settings and are not considered to meet the Medi-Cal definition for emergency services.

As part of its regular processing, DHS financially screens patients, including those receiving services at the Medical Hubs. If patients are found to not have third party coverage, they are referred to patient financial services staff for assessment and application assistance, including applications for Medi-Cal.

Eligible DHS Medical Hub clinicians have been asked to submit applications to become Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) providers and all Medical Hubs will begin using the CHDP Gateway. Through the CHDP Gateway, children who do not have health coverage such as Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, or private insurance may receive temporary health care coverage through Medi-Cal. To continue health coverage beyond this temporary period, the family will be referred to DHS financial services staff for application assistance, including applications for Medi-Cal.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Center Designation

In addition to the revenue opportunities described above, DHS is pursuing SART Center designation for the Medical Hubs. SART Centers are able to receive reimbursement from law enforcement agencies for sexual assault exams that are authorized by the law enforcement agency. The DHS Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency oversees the SART Center program. Currently, only the LAC+USC Medical Hub is a SART Center. The remaining DHS Medical Hubs are preparing their SART Center applications with the goal of submitting them to the EMS Agency during February 2010.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Cheri Todoroff, Deputy, DHS Planning and Program Oversight, at (213) 240-8272 or via e-mail at ctodoroff@dhs.lacounty.gov.

JFS:ct

c: Chief Executive Office
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